Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 02222 091800Z ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 PER-01 MMO-01 ARAE-00 /015 W

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P R 091632Z MAR 77 FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 346 INFO HQS DEA WASHDC AMEMBASSY CARACAS

CONFIDENTIAL BOGOTA 2222

CARACAS FOR DEA

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: SNAR, CO

SUBJECT: F-2 NARCOTICS INTELLIGENCE UNIT

REF: CARACAS 1562

1. ON FEB 14, THE CARACAS DEA REGIONAL OFFICE UNEXPECTEDLY WITHDREW ALL DEA SUPPORT FROM THE F-2 NARCOTICS INTELLIGENCE UNIT HERE. EMBASSY WAS SUBSEQUENTLY
GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND THAT THIS ACTION WAS NOT PROMPTED
BY ANY PROBLEMS HERE IN COLOMBIA BUT WAS INSTEAD
INTENDED TO OBLIGE DEA HEADQUARTERS TO REASSESS DEA'S
ROLE IN THIS OPERATION. SINCE NEARLY A MONTH HAS
NOW PASSED, EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO KNOW HOW THIS MATTER
STANDS. OBVIOUSLY, THE ABSENCE OF DEA SUPPORT IS NOT
HELPING THE UNIT, AND THE EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO RESTORE
THE LEVEL OF COOPERATION AND EFFECTIVENESS THAT PREVAILED
PREVIOUSLY AMONG THE PERSONNEL INVOLVED.

2. IN THIS CONNECTION, EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO OBSERVE THAT THE PRODUCT OF THIS UNIT HAS BEEN INVALUABLE IN TERMS OF STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE. THIS INTELLIGENCE HAS BEEN, AND WILL BE, AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN SHAPING CONFIDENTIAL.

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THE MISSON'S DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS WITH REGARD TO USG RESOURCE ALLOCATIONS FOR NARCOTICS CONTROL. (BOGOTA 1188, PARA 3, CONCERNING DEA STAFFING HERE, PROVIDES AN EXAMPLE OF THIS.) THE MISSION IS NOW PREPARING ITS SUBMISSION FOR THE ANNUAL POLICY AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT REVIEW (PARM), AND WHAT WE WILL BE SAYING IN THIS PARM CONCERNING OUR PRESENT AND FUTURE NARCOTICS

CONTROL EFFORTS HERE WILL BE INFLUENCED TO AN IMPORTANT DEGREE BY THE PICTURE THAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO BUILD UP FROM THE UNIT'S REPORTS. EMBASSY EXPECTS OF COURSE THAT THE INTELLIGENCE FROM THIS UNIT WILL ALSO LEAD TO MORE EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT ACTION HERE AND ELSEWHERE. BUT, WE DO NOT THINK THAT THIS TACTICAL FACET OF THE UNIT'S OPERATIONS, HOWEVER SIGNIFICANT, SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO OBSCURE THE UNIT'S IMPORTANCE IN TERMS OF HELPING THIS MISSION DISCERN AND MEASURE WITH GREATER CONFIDENCE WHAT WE HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHING IN OUR NARCOTICS CONTROL EFFORTS HERE AND WHAT WE SHOULD BE PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE IN TERMS OF OUR OVER-ALL STRATEGY.

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